

# TYPIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE VARIETIES OF GNAPHALIUM HELLERI BRITTON (COMPOSITAE-INULEAE)

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A study was initiated to elucidate the status of a collection—*Mahler 6850* (SMU)—of *Gnaphalium helleri* Britton taken during a botanical survey of a lake site and strip mining area in northeastern Texas (Mahler, 1973; 1974).

I am indebted to the curators of the following herbaria: FSU, GA, GH, LL, MICH, MO, NCU, NY, TENN, TEX, VDB, Northeastern Louisiana University, Monroe, and University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. Gratitude is also extended to R. C. Barneby.

## KEY TO TAXA

1. Stems white, tomentum loose to dense,  
 obscuring glandular pubescence . . . . . *G. obtusifolium*
1. Stems greenish, not tomentose, visibly glandular . . . . . *G. helleri*
  2. Stems glandular-villous; plants  
 of the southeastern United States . . . . . var. *helleri*
  2. Stems glandular-puberulent; plants  
 of the northeastern United States . . . . . var. *micradenium*

GNAPHALIUM OBTUSIFOLIUM L., Sp. P1.2: 851. 1753.

*G. polycephalum* Michx.

The white stems of this species possess hairs matted parallel to the stem. Upon removal of the white mat, the glandular-pubescence is usually prominent.

## GNAPHALIUM HELLERI Britton

Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 20:280, 1893. LECTOTYPE selected: Northwest, Norfolk County, Virginia, A. A. Heller s.n. 23 Sep. 1892, annotated by Britton (NY). SYNTYPES: Northwest, Norfolk County, Virginia, A. A. Heller s.n. 23 Sep. 1892 (NY, MO); Southern United States, Georgia, Boykin s.n., annotated by Gray and Britton (NY).

*G. polycephalum* Michx. var.  $\beta$ , Torr. & Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 2:427. 1843.

*G. polycephalum* Michx. var. *helleri* (Britt.) Fernald, Rhodora 10: 94. 1908.

*G. obtusifolium* L. var. *helleri* (Britt.) Blake, Rhodora 20: 72. 1918.

Annuals, aromatic; stems erect, green, pubescence of short, erect, stipitate, glandular hairs or of long, spreading, white, jointed, gland-tipped hairs;



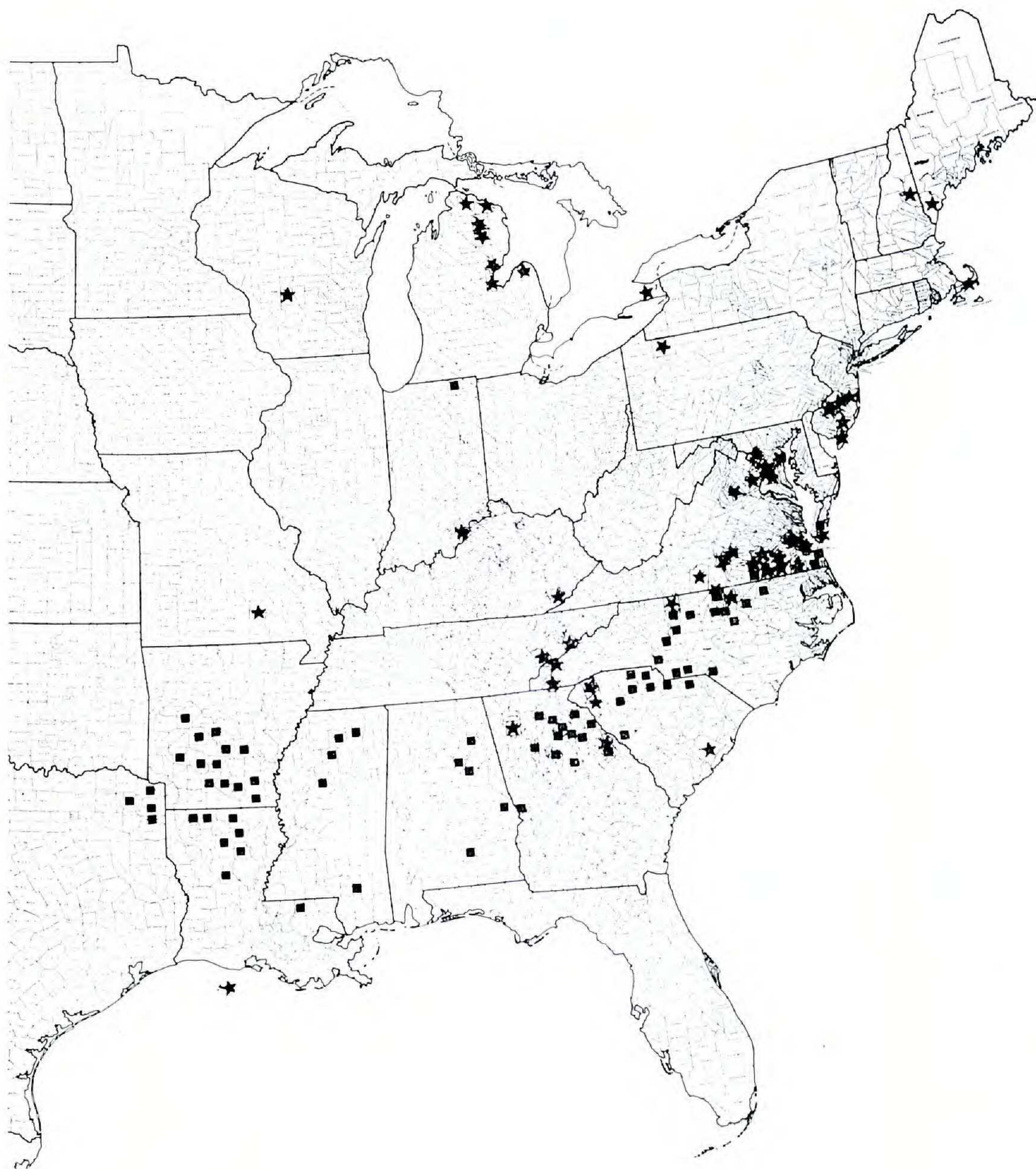


Fig. 1. Documented distribution of *Gnaphalium helleri* Britton: *var. helleri* (squares), *var. micradenium* (stars).

leaves sessile, green and stipitate glandular above, white tomentose to glabrate below, narrowly elliptic, margins entire to undulately toothed; inflorescence of heads in wide to narrow corymbs; heads peduncled, not glomerate at maturity; involucre 7-8 mm long; phyllaries white, rounded to erose apically; achenes brown, glabrous; pappus bristles individually deciduous. Aug.-Nov. Openings and clearings, pine or pine-hardwood forest.



The absence of the white tomentum was regarded as being only of varietal value by Fernald (1908) and Blake (1918). However, the distribution patterns, absence of intermediates, and the conspicuous pubescence patterns result in the recognition of the glandular-viscid taxa as one species.

**GNAPHALIUM HELLERI** Britton var. **HELLERI**

Illustrations (photographs); Fernald, *Rhodora* 38: Plate 434. Figs. 8, 9. 1936.  
Distribution Map: Fig. 1.

Main stems and lower floral branches greenish and glandular-villous with spreading, white, jointed, gland-tipped hairs. This variety is well documented in Arkansas (Delzie Demaree collections). Louisiana (R. D. Thomas collections), and the Carolinas (Radford, Ahles, & Bell, 1968). It is probable that this is a result of "disjunct collections" instead of disjunct ranges (Demaree, pers. comm.).

**GNAPHALIUM HELLERI** Britton var. **micradenium** (Weatherby) Mahler, comb. nov.

*G. obtusifolium* L. var. *micradenium* Weatherby, *Rhodora* 25: 22. 1923.  
TYPE: Dry, sandy openings among scrub oaks, Barnstable, Mass., 7 Oct 1917, *Fernald 15870* (GH).

Illustrations (photographs): Fernald, *Rhodora* 38: Plate 434. Figs. 6, 7. 1936.  
Distribution Map: Fig. 1.

Stem, pubescence of short, straight, gland-tipped, spreading hairs, not conspicuously whitish or flattened basally. Two specimens examined from Louisiana and western New York did not have specific localities and are plotted adjacent to their respective states in Figure 1.

#### REFERENCES

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